

REMARKS

By this Amendment; claims 12, 15, and 18 are amended, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11 and 16 are canceled, and claims 19-27 are added. Thus, claims 12-15 and 18-27 are pending. Claim 12 is amended into independent form, claim 15 is amended for form, claim 18 is amended for antecedent basis, and new claims 19-27 respectively correspond to previously pending claims 9-11, 16, 3, 4, and 6-8. No new matter is added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 12-15 and 18 recite allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 12 into independent form. Thus, claims 12-15 and 18 should be allowed. Furthermore, new claims 19-27 depend from claim 12 and should be allowed as well.

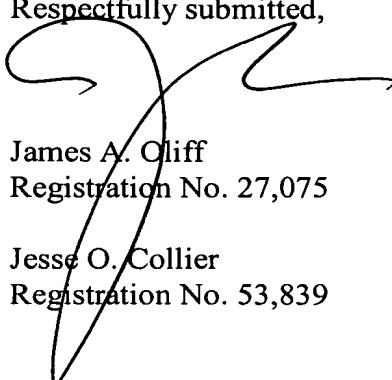
Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9-11, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,556,417 (Sher) and claims 7 and 8 are ejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sher in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,145,013 (Waller). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

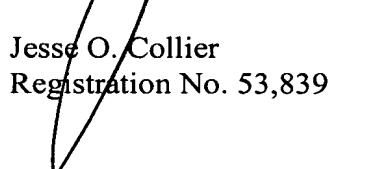
In particular, as discussed above, all of pending claims 12-15 and 18-27 should be allowed for at least the reasons that claim 12 was indicated as allowable in the Office Action. Thus, the rejection is moot. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicant earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: December 26, 2007

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